FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

Trip of March 20 to Franklin Lake, N. J.

Through some mischance no announcement of the trip was published in the papers so the leader was the only one present.

Nevertheless, I was determined to make the trip count for something, so I walked up to the Persimmon stand myself and took notes on the height, diameter, and other data for all the trees I could find. I found a very interesting situation. The trees which, as you know, grow on the western edge of the swamp, have the characteristic of sending out occasional new shoots from their roots which are running parallel to the surface of the ground, so that the continuance of the stand does not seem to depend on seeding, although in a few cases seeds may have germinated. It seems to be rather an establishment of the group due to this underground method of asexual reproduction, such as we get in locusts and sumacs, and, further, the trees seemed to have been there a very long time, much longer than appears from their diameters, for I found old trunks, weathered and bare, which are Persimmon wood. My theory is that a crow, or some other large bird, carried a Persimmon fruit there many years ago, and the stand has been derived from that single event.

There is a similar stand of Persimmons at Lighthouse Point, New Haven, which has always been of great intest to Connecticut botanists. Also, it would be interesting to find out other stations of the Persimmon in this region, which must be pretty close to the northern limit of the range. The trees at Franklin Lake do not seem to be very thrifty. I saw many cases of dying-back, due to the cold weather.

Arthur H. Graves

Trip of April 10 to the Pine Barrens of N. J.

Attempting to meet the party near Cedar Bridge, the writer drove direct from Trenton, N.J. to the old location for *Corema* described by Redfield in the Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, Vol. XVI, 1889. "road running west-northwest from Cedar Bridge . . . for about two and one-half miles to where the road is crossed by a north and south road, and following this for half or two-thirds of a mile south."

"This region is a most remarkable one, which cannot fail to impress the visitor with a sense of loneliness and sterility. It forms a part of the water-shed or divide between streams flowing into the Atlantic and those discharging into the Delaware River. Locally it is known as the West Plains, but these so-called "plains" are long, undulating swells of sand, sometimes rising to a height commanding extensive views over a desert of sand so sterile that even the trees of *Pinus rigida* which sparsely clothe it can attain only to a height of three or four feet. No sign of human life is visible, and one could easily imagine himself in the midst of a vast wilderness. We followed the rising swells of ground . . . both to the east and west of the road to the extent of at least half a mile, and for a like distance in the opposite direction without losing sight of the *Corema*, and we probably did not reach its limits. In some places the patches were separated by intervals of some rods, but often scores of them were seen at once, and in many places they became confluent in large masses, reminding one of the appearance of the plant at Plymouth, Mass."

The writer has found *Corema* at this place for the last five or six years, but only in the roadway or very close beside it. However, during the last year, some government agency with its usual lack of consideration in such matters, or its ignorance, has repaired the road and destroyed the last vestige of the plant in this locality. About half a mile further south, however, or exactly one and one-tenth miles from the main road, it can be found along both sides of the old road where the new did not follow it, and for some distance back on the south side of this road.

At this date it had passed its time of bloom. *Pyxidanthera* was only occasionally opened. Scattered plants of Arbutus were for the most part past bloom. Everywhere trailed the graceful *Arctostaphylos*, and in favored locations rose the upright stems of *Dendrium buxifolium* whose buds were beginning to show considerable color, and the green bristles of *Hudsonia ericoides* were pricking through its drab winter coverings.

W. L. Dix

Trip of May 1 to Seven Wells, Dover Plains, N. Y.

Beginning at Pawling the party motored towards the Seven Wells which are about two miles below Dover Plains on the

east slope of Chestnut Ridge. Before reaching this destination we stopped just outside Dover Furnace along Route 22 to inspect a field of Quaker Ladies nestled in a narrow valley. About two to three acres were completely white as though Spring's last snowfall still lay on the ground in thin drifts. The patches which varied from white to violet blue bore a delicious fragrance in the hot sun. Outcroppings of the late Cambrian limestone along the valley bore many Columbines and edgings of Early Saxifrage. Way up on the hillside Dogwood bloomed at frequent intervals, and at another corner of the little valley a group of Apple trees was in full bloom.

A diminutive violet, probably *Viola fimbriatula*, bloomed profusely among the Quaker Ladies and occasional patches of *Antennaria dioica* were already commencing to present ripe seed heads to the spring winds. The whole place seemed like a little Alpine meadow according to one of the guests.

One limestone outcropping was covered with walking fern. Here and there were tufts of *Campanula rotundifolia* which will later spread a tint of blue against the ledges of white. Some plants of Columbine had possession of one portion, however, and we all agreed that limestone is the best background for these graceful red and yellow flowers.

Driving on the party came to Seven Wells. We crossed west over the railroad and a quarter mile further on parked the car and began the steep ascent to the top of Chestnut Ridge.

Seven Wells gets its name from the huge potholes which have been eaten out by a glacial stream that followed one of the numerous faults in this region. The waters tumble from one pothole into another, some being connected by six foot wide and thirty foot deep flumes. Most of the potholes are at the head of the ridge. Lower down the waters rush noisily over a series of falls and delightful little pools to the Ten Mile River below. Hemlocks on both sides shaded and cooled the slopes of the stream and plenty of laurel clustered around the dark green conifers.

Our most notable find was three flowering plants of *Dirca palustris*, not a common plant in these parts. A few flowers of Trailing Arbutus appeared as holdovers in this cool ravine. Their odor was eagerly sniffed by the party. Clean fresh green mats of Canada Mayflower were beginning to flower. Pink

Lady Slippers had large buds, still green however. Trout Lily and Crinklewort appeared all over. Mountain Maple was noticeable in spots. Plenty of Red-berried Elder was in full bloom. Its refreshing perfume was noticed by all the party. Really, this spot seemed like a bit of the Catskills or Adirondacks transplanted way south. It seemed very wild and far away from the populated valley beneath.

Just before we reached where the stream dipped over the head of Chestnut Ridge the largest potholes came to view, some being almost thirty feet across. These are some of the largest in the east comparing with those at Lost River, New Hampshire.

Following the stream back we saw Marsh Marigold, Fringed Polygala, *Viburnum alnifolium* in blossom. Also *Panax trifolium*, *Comptonia asplenifolia*, *Viola blanda*, *pubescens*, *rotundifolia*, *cucullata*, *papillionacea*, and *conspersa*. The flowers of the Early Meadow Rue, were delicately beautiful especially the hazy purplish tinted staminate ones. *Anemonella thalictroides* and *Anemone quinquefolia* were very much in evidence. *Azalea nudiflora* was just commencing to bloom. Clumps of Golden Ragwort were almost open and likewise *Erigeron pulchellus*. Several fine clumps of Wild Ginger were also noticed.

We saw only the Purple Trillium and looked in vain for Canadian Yew in the Seven Wells locality, nor did we come across Goldthread. Possibly these and other plants of northern and cool mountainous altitudes may yet be located here. Certainly this ravine proved more interesting than the short spectacular beauty of the Old Stone Church Ravine at Dover Plains. In fact the Seven Wells locality took all our time and so we left the latter spot out of the trip entirely.

GEORGE DILLMAN

THE MAY 20–22 WEEK-END AT BRANCHVILLE, N. J.

Nearly sixty members and friends of the club, including members of the Newark Museum Nature Club, attended the thirteenth Nature Conference at The Pines. Mr. and Mrs. George T. Hastings were host and hostess for the conference, Mrs. Stephen Smith and Mr. W. M. Husk of The Pines gave the members the same considerate service we have become accustomed to in past years. Dr. Henry B. Kummel led trips on

Saturday and Sunday for those interested in geology, and on Friday evening gave a talk on the geology of northern New Jersey, illustrated with slides showing the geological history and present arrangement of the rocks of the region. Professor Olover P. Medsger led general nature trips both days and on Saturday evening gave an illustrated lecture on nature photography. Mr. and Mrs. S. Harmsted Chubb led early morning bird trips as well as morning and afternoon trips. They reported three black terns and a Florida gallinule with young at Culver Lake, the first report for these birds in the Branchville region. Five white-crowned sparrows, late migrants, were also seen. On Friday evening Mr. Louis Anderson showed a series of his beautiful colored lantern slides of insects and flowers.

George T. Hastings

Field Trip of May 28–30 to the Catskills

Five members were present for this trip. On the 28th we collected in Woodland Valley, Westkill Notch, and Stony Clove; on the 29th in Watson Hollow and in the region of the Ashokan Dam; and on the 30th we climbed up Cornell Falls, collecting en route. The following mosses were of particular interest—*Neckera gracilis* (James)Kindb., *Rhacomitrium aquaticum* Brid., *Anomodon tristis* (Cesat.) Sulliv., *Rhapidostegium Novae-Caesareae* (Aust.) R. & C., *Rhabdoweisia denticulata* B. & S., *Forsstroemia trichomitria* (Hedw.) Lindb., *Pohlia cruda* (L.) Lindb., *Fissidens bryoides* (L.) Hedg. The following ferns were also of interest,—*Cryptogramme Stelleri, Woodsia ilvensis, Dryopteris Goldiana, Polystichum Braunii, Cystopteris bulbifera.* Of flowering plants a colony of over twenty-five *Habenaria orbiculata*, was of greatest interest. There was also a fine stand of *Linnaea americana*, and specimens of *Aconitum noveboracense* and of *Clintonia borealis*. Bird lovers were thrilled with nests of the junco and the black-throated blue warbler.

Inez M. Haring

Trip of June 4 to Washington Valley, N. J.

Twenty-three members and guests were present on the trip to Washington Valley, near Watchung, N.J. Three hundred and forty-five different species and varieties of plants were identified, among which were such interesting ones as *Obolaria*

virginica, *Fissipes acaulis*, *Chamaelirium luteum*, *Menispermum canadense*, *Celtis crassifolia*, *Dioscorea villosa*, *Myosotis laxa*, *Aureolaria virginica*, *Cimicifuga racemosa*, *Triosteum aurantiacum*, *Pinus virginiana*, *Viola emarginata*, *V. triloba*, *V. sagittata*, *V. palmata*, *V. pubescens*, *Viburnum trilobum*, and *Osmunda spectabilis*. The noteworthy stand of *Hieracium murorum* was seen in full bloom. *Thalesia uniflora* and *Selaginella apus* were found in abundance, as well as such naturalizations in the fields of Washington Valley and the slopes of both the First and Second Watchung Mountains as *Coreopsis grandiflora* var. *villosa*, *Elaeagnus umbellata*, *Berberis thunbergii*, *Hesperis matronalis*, *Salix lucida*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Narcissus poeticus*, *Calycanthus floridus*, *Deutzia scabra*, *Spiraea prunifolia* var. *plena*, *Vinca minor*, *Asparagus officinalis*, and three species of *Ligustrum*. *Diervilla lonicera* and *Robinia viscosa* were found in full bloom on the Second Mountain, as well as two species of *Radicula*. *Callitriche palustris*, *Alisma subcordatum*, *Isnardia palustris*, *Acorus calamus*, *Eleocharis*, and *Sparganium* were studied along the brookside, as well as 5 or 6 species of *Salix* and, in the woods, 2 species of *Crataegus*—*C. crusgalli* and *C. uniflora*. Interesting cultivated plants studied included *Acer pictum*, *A. platanoides* var. *schwedleri*, *Castanea sativa* (in fruit), *Larix decidua*, *Anchusa italica*, *Cephalaria alpina*, *Echinops ritro*, *Lychnis maritima*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Ranunculus repens* var. *plena*, *Syringa villosa*, *Kolkwitzia amabilis*, *Cotinus coggygria*, *Myosotis arvensis*, and *Gypsophila muralis*.

H. N. Moldenke

Trip of June 5 to Seeley's Notch, Scotch Plains, N. J.

Thirteen members and guests were present on the trip. Assistance was given in leading the group over the numerous trails and to the many interesting localities known best to local residents, by Mrs. Gladys P. Anderson of Westfield, Mr. James Kezer of Summit, and Mr. Ben Elliot of Scotch Plains. Mrs. Anderson called attention to numerous interesting lichens and mosses and other plants and Mr. Kezer exhibited a portion of his most valuable and excellent collection of the small mammals of the region, including some which were new records for New Jersey. Interesting plants observed included *Liparis liliifolia*, *Arabis canadensis*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Menispermum cana-*

dense (in full bloom), *Hydrophyllum virginianum*, *Aralia nudicaulis* (in tremendous quantities), *A. racemosa*, *Ulmus fulva*, *Acorus calamus*, *Iris prismatica*, *Geum virginianum*, *Carpinus caroliniana* var. *virginiana*, *Staphylea trifolia*, *Rosa carolina*, *Taenidia integerrima*, *Viburnum rafinesquianum*, *Danthonia sericea*, *Aster patens*, *Penstemon hirsutus*, *Svida rugosa*, *S. amomum*, *Actea pachypoda*, *Asplenium platyneuron*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Woodsia obtusa*, *Adiantum pedatum*, *Comandra umbellata*, *Sericocarpus asteroides*, *Carex virescens*, *C. swanii*, *C. schweinitzii*, and extensive colonies of *Sisymbrium nasturtium-aquaticum*, as well as the naturalized *Hesperis matronalis*, *Iris pseudacorus* (in tremendous quantities), *Ilex opaca*, *Bignonia radicans*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Deutzia scabra*, and *Asparagus officinalis*.

H. N. Moldenke

Trip of June 12 to Hacklebarney State Park, Chester, N. J.

Eight members and friends of the Club visited Hacklebarney State Park on the above date. The Park has been visited previously, April 10, 1932 under the leadership of Mrs. G. P. Anderson, and May 2, 1937 with the present leader. For most botanical purposes either of the above dates would be preferable to the present one, providing a more interesting display. We found the spring flowers and Azalea to be past while the Mountain Laurel was not along far enough to be conspicuous. Probably the most interesting flowering plant observed was the Penstemon which was seen in abundance in a field just outside the park boundary. Many of the common ferns were seen, the Christmas Fern being present in greatest abundance. Sensitive, Hay-scented, New York, Marginal Shield, Long Beech, Ebony spleenwort, Maidenhair, Polypody, Bracken, and some fine specimens of Rattle-snake Fern were found.

The Park is located in a gorge of the Black River and crossed by Rhinestone Brook and Trout Brook. The water is too rough for aquatic plants but occasionally on the banks a limited amount of marsh vegetation may be seen. In the most precipitous part of the gorge there is a well developed Hemlock ravine flora. A small area of abandoned land illustrates the succession under such conditions. Red Cedar and Grey Birch may be

seen. The greatest area of the Park is an Oak-Hickory forest typical of the region in which the Park is located. It is in an advanced state of development with good reproduction and some invasion of the Beech-Maple association in parts of the Park. In earlier times there was an abundance of Chestnut, which succumbed to the blight disease and is now represented only by frequent dead trees, stumps, and sprout reproduction.

Among the most pleasing things at the Park is the hospitality of the superintendent, Mr. C. E. Pollock, and the way that he has developed the Park by cutting narrow footpaths with a minimum of disturbance of the native plants. There is almost no introduction of foreign species nor is there any attempt to rearrange the native ones, a pleasant contrast to the situation at many parks.

John A. Small

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

Meeting of March 1, 1938

The meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club held at the American Museum of Natural History on March 1, was called to order by the vice-president, Dr. Alfred Gunderson. There were 38 persons present. The minutes of the meetings of February 1st and February 16 were read and approved.

Dr. William G. Howe, Bronx, N. Y.; Dr. T. D. Earle, Dept. of Botany, University of Minnesota; Mr. Herbert A. McCullough, Pittsburgh, Penn.; and Mr. Kenneth Kopf, Milford, Conn. were unanimously elected annual members of the Club.

Herbert Pollack, Jackson Heights, Long Island; Sanford S. Tepfer, Brooklyn, New York, and Joseph Heikoff, Brooklyn, New York were elected associates of the Club.

A report from the committee appointed by the president to draw up suitable resolutions to be sent to the families of Dr. John K. Small and Mrs. Arthur H. Graves was read and was accepted by a rising vote of the Club. This action is here entered in the minutes of the Torrey Club:

"The hand of death has taken from our midst one of our oldest and most illustrious members. Dr. John K. Small was elected to active membership in the Torrey Botanical Club, 14 January, 1890, while he was still an undergraduate at Franklin